



Road Update

February 9 – 22, 2006 · Issue 59

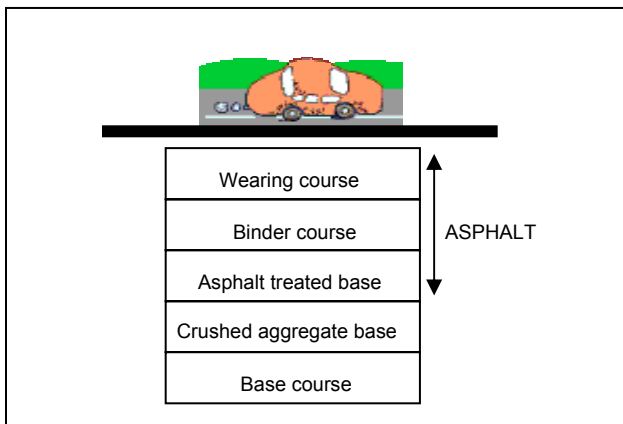
KANDAHAR-HERAT HIGHWAY

The Kandahar-Herat Highway is a 557 km stretch of road that links southern and western Afghanistan. This portion of the “Ring Road”, connects the Afghan cities of Kabul, Kandahar and Herat. USAID funds 326 km of the highway, while Saudi Arabia and Japan contribute to a 116 km section. USAID also funds the security, de-mining, design, and construction management of the Saudi Section (Section 2).

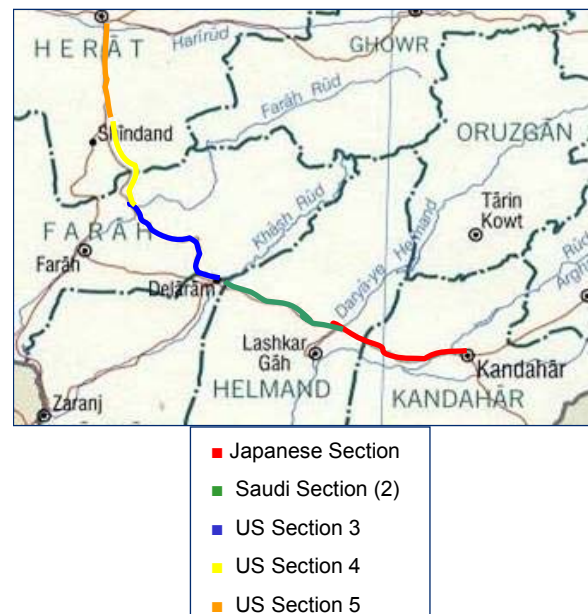
PROGRESS TO DATE

In Section 2 (Km 116-231), the demining and design work continue. The permanent camp facilities will be occupied in late February. Excavation and embankment works are 11% complete and ongoing. Rubblizing will begin by the end of February. In **Section 3** (Km 231-356), USAID completed asphalt pavement and all bridges. Shoulder work will continue weather permitting. Some recent damage due to flash flooding is being remedied. A final inspection is planned for the end of February. In **Section 4** (4A Km 356-406, 4B Km 406-456), contractors completed asphalt paving, and nearly finished the final bridge.

Composition of a Road



Kandahar-Herat Highway Sections



Final inspections of the road took place on February 11-12 and certificates of substantial completion were awarded for Sections 3 and 4. In **Section 5** (Km 456-557), contractors completed 77 Km of asphalt on the first and second layers and 20% of the wearing course, but continue bridge, culvert, and shoulder work. USAID completed three of seven bridges. Cold winter weather halted all paving, however work began on the foot of a bridge at Km 557.

USAID builds capacity– a principal component of development and reconstruction assistance– into road reconstruction efforts to increase Afghan participation and commitment. During this period, 74% of the project’s employees were Afghan nationals.

Guide for the Non-Road Engineers: Construction Flow





Road Update (continued)

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Focus on Urban Roads: Bibi Mahro

Phase 1: North and south-bound lanes are open to two-way traffic on the binder course. The north and south-bound side drains are complete. The median curbing and infill are completed. Driveway culvert and curb work are ongoing in both directions. Both previously closed side roads are now open to public. Street light foundations and cable trench are complete. Cable placement is at 85% and the light pole placement has commenced. The wearing course will be completed in the spring when the weather warms.

PROVINCIAL ROADS HIGHLIGHTS

Security and weather conditions continue to be the biggest threats to work. Much of the work is slowed or stopped due to winter weather.

Kabul-Gardez Road (125 km) – Section 1 (Km 3 to 45) and Section 2 (Km 45 to 87) are complete. Snow removal maintenance is on standby to clear the Tera Pass.

Pul-e Alam to Ring Road (35 km) – Snow removal stands by to clear the road as needed. Much of the workforce is restarting work after returning from winter leave.

Jalalabad-Asmar Road (124 km) – Two crushers are operational. Culvert installations are ongoing as well as other stone masonry construction with 13 km of roadway having culverts complete. Subgrade, subbase, and base works continue with 21 km of subbase completed in this period. Rough grading of the entire 124 Km stretch is complete. Security threats have limited the number of worksites.



Vehicle hit with IED on Ghazni-Sharan Road, February 15, 2006

Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road (148 km) – All scheduled work has been completed and is being readied for turnover to Ministry of Public Works.

Panjshir Road (70 km) – Section 1: Works on a culvert and retaining wall are ongoing at Km 3+795, 4+981, and 5+166, all on the right side of the road have been completed. Sub-grade and survey works continue. Section 2: Additional crushers continue to produce base course materials. A screening plant is producing sub-base materials. Sub-base has been placed between 16+990 and 18+180, with base course following in the same area.

Farah-Ring Road (70 km) – Screening and crushing of Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST) aggregate is ongoing. Construction of causeways between Km 60+720 and 61+085 also continues, along with stone masonry at causeways at 55+375 and 55+500. Culvert, subgrade, subbase, and base course work is ongoing at various locations. Security threats have limited the number of worksites.

Lashkar Gah-Ring Road (49 km) – Section 1 (Km 0 to 43): Embankment, sub-base, and base course works are continuing and 5 km of DBST was placed. Section 2 (Km 43 to 49): Excavation and embankment works began with 1 km complete. Security threats have limited the number of worksites.

Ghazni-Sharan Road (57.5 km) – Rough grading is in progress. Very little snow fell, thus culvert excavation and earthworks continue.

Road-Related Security Incidents

For this reporting period, a number of security incidents continue to negatively impact USAID road reconstruction efforts.

Feb 7- Farah: A road construction vehicle was hit by 2 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), killing 4 contractors from Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Turkey on the Farah to Ring Road Project.

Feb 12- Jalalabad: Six Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) were fired on the Rock Crusher Plant at the Jalalabad Road Project. No injuries were reported. Neither the compound nor equipment was damaged.

Feb 12- Ghazni: Six rockets were launched at the Sharon Compound. Rockets did not damage the compound nor equipment. No injuries resulted.

Feb 14- Lashkar Gah: Armed men claiming to be Taliban threatened local Afghan workers on the Lashkar Gar Road Project claiming that they would be killed if they continued to work for foreigners.